

Message

From: Faeth, Lisa [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=12AF792B39CC4B4FA8089976F3F8859F-LFAETH]
Sent: 4/24/2018 3:14:29 PM
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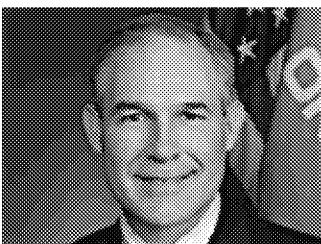
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Subject: News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT ARTICLES

[Pruitt Met With Lobbyist Tied to Condo Rental \(1\)](#)



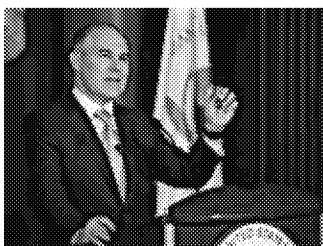
The lobbyist whose wife rented a bedroom in a Capitol Hill condo to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt met with him in July along with the director of the charitable arm of Smithfield Foods Inc., a pork processing company that was regulated by the agency.

Lobbyist Steps Down Amid Fallout Over Pruitt Condo Controversy



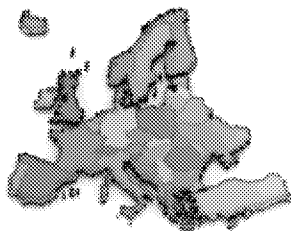
The lobbyist whose wife rented a bedroom in a Capitol Hill condo to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is leaving his job as chairman of high-powered lobbying firm Williams & Jensen.

White House Said to Deter Republicans from Defending EPA Chief



White House officials are cautioning Republican lawmakers and other conservative allies to temper their defense of Scott Pruitt, according to two people familiar with the discussions, in a sign that administration support for the embattled EPA chief may be waning.

EU Enforcers Find Toxic Chemical Products Sold With No Warnings



Most European Union online vendors of cleaning agents, glues, insect sprays, and other products containing hazardous chemicals are failing to comply with the bloc's labeling rules.

EPA Floats 'Secret Science' Ban Rule, Signaling Possible Internal Fixes

EPA has sent for White House review a proposed rule to increase the transparency of regulatory science, advancing Administrator Scott Pruitt's controversial efforts to ban the use of "secret science" in a move that suggests officials have addressed at least some internal concerns that such a policy could violate statutory protections of medical privacy and trade secrets.

Environmentalists Launch Suit Challenging EPA's TSCA Framework Rules

Environmentalists have filed their opening brief in their suit challenging EPA's "framework" rules for prioritizing and assessing existing chemicals for possible regulation under the revised Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), arguing the rules violate a requirement to conduct a holistic review that considers all of a chemical's uses.

Agencies Wrestle With Lead Exposure Goals Ahead Of Strategy's Release

Two months before the planned release of a federal strategy for reducing children's lead exposures, EPA and other agencies are wrestling with key policy goals, including a planned schedule for eliminating exposures, whether the strategy will complement pending EPA rules and if EPA plans to account for stricter federal health standards that are slated to be adopted later this year.

EPA Sees TSCA Fee Increase If It Adopts New 'Small Business' Metric

EPA says it might have to hike the fees it charges companies for approving new and existing chemicals under the revised toxics law if it adopts one of two employee-based size metrics it is considering for defining "small businesses" that are charged lower fees.

Pruitt Scandals Prompt Agency Staff Anger At Ethics 'Double Standard'

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's mounting ethics problems are prompting an angry reaction from many agency staff who fear they would be reprimanded, suspended or even removed for conduct similar to Pruitt's, citing in part warnings in annual ethics trainings to avoid even the appearance of improper actions and to not waste government resources.

GREENWIRE ARTICLES

'Shocked' by noncompliance, enforcement chief warns industry

Sean Reilly, E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, April 23, 2018

With an expression of surprise at the continuing lack of compliance with environmental laws, EPA enforcement chief Susan Bodine warned businesses Friday against cutting corners to save money.

While that's bad for the environment and public health, it's also bad for the company, Bodine said at the EarthX festival in Dallas, "because you're going to lose whatever those savings were in penalties, lost reputation, even debarment from getting federal government contracts."

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/04/23/stories/1060079817>

Senator linked to Pruitt condo fundraisers

Geof Koss and Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporters

Published: Monday, April 23, 2018



EPA administrator Scott Pruitt has faced controversy for his use of this condo, rented for \$50 a night from the wife of a lobbyist whose firm has clients that lobby the agency. Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) is also facing heat for allegedly not reporting paying for the use of the condo for fundraisers on campaign filings. Kevin Bogardus/E&E News

The environmentalists who blanketed Capitol Hill with posters mocking EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's deal living in a lobbyist-owned condo are back, this time taking Senate Banking Chairman Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) to task for holding fundraisers at the now-infamous property.

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/04/23/stories/1060079829>

CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES

US body abandons plans for new flammability standard

NFPA hears concerns over flame retardants in furniture

24 April 2018 / Built environment, Halocarbons, United States



The National Fire Protection Association in the US has voted to halt development of a new flammability standard for residential upholstered furniture. The vote came amid stakeholder concern around the toxicity of the flame retardant chemicals that may have been needed to meet it.

Since 2014, a technical committee and two task groups at the NFPA have been working to develop a method to evaluate upholstered residential furniture subjected to a flaming ignition source. They were responding to a "significant fire issue" posed by burning upholstered furniture, according to Christian Dubay, NFPA vice president and chief engineer.

But the organisation received "numerous comments in opposition" to the draft – NFPA 277. Among these, many raised concerns that its implementation could increase the use of flame retardant chemicals in the furniture.

The NFPA's Standards Council voted to end development of the standard, citing a "fundamental lack of consensus on how to test and evaluate residential upholstered furniture flammability, exposed to a flaming ignition source."

Standards driving flame retardant use

The NFPA develops codes and standards through an open, consensus-based process. Although its standards are voluntary, many are adopted by local governments or firms.

Its work on standard 277 came though there has been a move away from 'open flame' flammability standards in favour of 'smoulder' tests in recent years.

Prior to 2014, California had in place an open-flame test for upholstered furniture. Many manufacturers used added chemical flame retardants in furniture sold nationwide to meet this.

Amid concerns of the possible harmful effects to human health and the environment of exposure to the substances, Governor Jerry Brown approved a new standard in November 2013 – Technical Bulletin [\(TB\) 117-2013](#). This replaced the open-flame test in the original TB 113 with a smoulder test, which could more readily be met without added flame retardants.

Following that change, many foam suppliers and furniture manufacturers began removing flame retardants from products. [Several US states](#) have since acted to ban or restrict the substances' use in those applications.

Stakeholder opposition

The Polyurethane Foam Association is opposed to the standard. In comments to the NFPA, it said that, among other concerns, furniture assemblies would probably include the use of flame retardants to "score" well with NFPA 277.

And because some jurisdictions have restricted or prohibited them in furniture, "without the availability of such substances (either ethically or legally), it may be impossible for many furniture designs to achieve acceptable NFPA 277 performance," it said.

Dr Donald Lucas, a retired Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory scientist who served on the NFPA 277 secondary task group, welcomed the decision to halt the standard's development. "Too many questions remain about [...] the health and environmental effects surrounding how flammability standards would be met to develop a meaningful method at this time," he said.

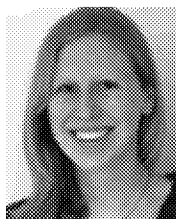
And Bifma, a trade group for commercial furniture, said it supports existing 'smoulder test' flammability standards as "appropriate regulation".

The Green Science Policy Institute (GPSI) – a longtime critic of flame retardant usage – also welcomed the decision.

But the NGO's executive director, Arlene Blum, told Chemical Watch she is concerned that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) may be considering adopting a similar standard.

"Historically, the largest driver of the addition of flame retardant chemicals to furniture in the US was the open-flame flammability testing required by California's Technical Bulletin 117," said Dr Blum. "I question why the [CPSC] is still considering such a standard."

The CPSC is set to meet on 16 May to discuss furniture fire standards. The GSPI agrees with a coalition of petitioning furniture trade groups that the agency should adopt California's updated TB 117-13 as the national standard.



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- [California approves new upholstered furniture flammability standards](#)
- [Rhode Island bans sale of organohalogen flame-retardant treated furniture](#)
- [Maine bans all flame retardants in upholstered furniture](#)
- [Flame retardants debate sparked by IEC flammability specification](#)
- [US furniture industry calls for national flammability standard](#)

Further Information:

- [NFPA blog](#)
- [Press release](#)

US EPA asked to extend consultation on alternative tests strategy

NGO advocates publication and review of 'robust and extensive' stakeholder analysis

The Environmental Defense Fund has requested that the US EPA extend the public comment period for its draft plan to promote the development of alternative test methods under TSCA.

The EDF's call comes after it was revealed that the agency has yet to release a stakeholder analysis that could "significantly influence" its consideration of issues raised in the plan.

The EPA published its *Strategic plan to promote the development and implementation of alternative test methods* in early March. It outlines the move towards making TSCA determinations with new approach methodologies (NAMs) in place of vertebrate animal testing.

But, at a 10 April hearing, Nancy Beck, deputy assistant administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention at the EPA, "prominently highlighted" the stakeholder-submitted analysis it is yet to release. The former American Chemistry Council staffer reportedly described the analysis as "robust and extensive".

The EPA said it would release it in the public docket, according to the EDF. But this has yet to happen.

The organisation has requested the agency make the document public and then extend the consultation by 30 days from this date.

"Given the importance that EPA itself publicly attributed to the analysis it received from a stakeholder, EPA should provide the public with sufficient opportunity to review and comment on that analysis," it says.

The comment period is currently set to close on 26 April.



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- [US EPA publishes draft strategy to promote alternative tests](#)

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- [Extension request](#)
- [Public docket](#)

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